

and Senator LUGAR. My understanding is they believe we should close the loophole entirely, not leave one area sort of in the dark, so to speak.

I am troubled by the amendment because our reading of the amendment indicates that it effectively exempts metals entirely without any oversight or regulation by the CFTC, even less than under current law. In good conscience, I cannot do that.

So I think we made the arguments, Madam President. And with what has happened—and now that we know the extent of the fraud that has taken place online—not to close that loophole, I think, would be a terrible blot on this Congress.

So I am hopeful we will have a positive vote.

I thank the Chair for your indulgence and yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been working with the two sponsors of this legislation. They have agreed to take my amendment. I have spoken with the majority and they say, no, they didn't want it to be done tonight, maybe tomorrow. I would simply say that we in good faith have worked, as I told the majority leader I would do, to try to move this bill along. Moving this bill along does not mean they are only going to be happy if we offer amendments that they like. The Senator from California in good faith offered this amendment. Whether people like it or not, if we are going to move this Energy bill along, we have to vote on it in some way. But it is my understanding that tonight nothing is going to happen.

It is pretty obvious nothing is going to happen. There has been nobody here. There has been nobody here to oppose her amendment. Of course, no other amendments can be offered until this one is set aside.

I just want the record to so reflect at a later time, when people come and say, we should try to move this bill along, and there have been statements on the floor made by the manager and the majority leader that they wanted to finish this bill this week.

I was asked at lunchtime, how did I feel about finishing the bill this week. I said to the reporters asking me: When you step back a little bit, there is about as much chance of our finishing this bill this week as my turning a back flip here in front of the two of you.

The record should reflect, I can't turn a back flip and never have been able to.

My point, I repeat, is that I am doing my very best to cooperate as I have been advised by the Democratic leader we should do everything we can to help with this bill. But help is a two-way street. When an amendment is offered that people don't like, you just can't have them leave rather than a single word being spoken against the amendment of the Senator from California other than my amendment which they have agreed to accept.

Having said that, wanting to continue to move this important piece of legislation, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 212 on the Dorgan amendment. Were I present for that vote, I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

#### IRAN

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I don't want to overly belabor the point but there is a very important thing happening on the other side of the world, in Iran, at this very time. My office has been receiving, now, numerous reports of a growing protest in Iran taking place right now. This is within the past couple of hours. It is down in Tehran, as I speak. It is estimated that this past evening between 5,000 to 8,000 students are joining protests against the Government's crackdown on student democracy dissidents.

Recently, five student leaders were arrested in advance of the July 9 anniversary of the original mass student protest in 1999. Even though it is now almost dawn in Tehran, the protest has continued.

I understand during the night there was a dissipation of the protest. A number of the student protesters—this was outside Tehran University—who were protesting dissipated. Rather than going back to their dorm rooms, they have gone and dispersed to other places because, after the 1999 protest, a number of the Iranian military guard went to the dormitories and arrested en masse a number of students and they were roundly punished.

We have also received reports that Iranian Government forces are beating up on the protesters, firing warning shots at them. I do not have that verified but we have received these reports.

I call this to the attention of Members of this body because there has been a lot of discussion going on at the present time of U.S. policy towards Iran. I think it is clear the United States should clearly stand with those who stand for democracy.

We don't know if the student protest is going to go ahead and mature further or not, or if it is going to further brutally be put down.

This is in a buildup to a July 9 protest that had been planned for a number of months, to recognize the July 9, 1999, student protest that was brutally put down by the regime. This has been building. In anticipation of that, the regime in Tehran—and this is a dictatorial regime that has never been elected, the rulers have never been selected by the people in Iran—arrested these student leaders in advance of July 9 in an effort to put it down before it gets started.

This is deplorable. This is not democracy. The United States should stand with those who stand for democracy. We should have a clear official policy that our position toward Iran is to support those who support democracy and we support democracy in Iran. We stand for that with the Iranian people.

There has been a growing, burgeoning movement in Iran of young people who do not want anything to do with this dictatorial regime. They have lived, now, some 25 years, over 25 years under this militant, dictatorial regime that supposedly has put Islamic law in place and they are tired of it and they want no more of it. They want no more of it and they are willing to put forward their lives in this gallant effort, this brave push for democracy. That is their desire.

I call on the Iranian Government to stop beating and harassing their own people. The students are shouting: Khatami, Khatami, go away.

These are the same students who gave President Khatami his start 7 years ago. He was elected as a reformer, which he has not produced on. Instead, he has continued with the same totalitarian way.

I believe he was one of seven candidates at the time selected by the ruling mullahs to be able to run in front of the people, and the people selected the most reformist, most hope minded.